presently; and if the same are found inadequate, to what extent they fall short of requirement; and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Air-India satisfies itself about the following criteria before appointing a General Sales Agent:—

(i) Financial soundness.

(ii) Ability to generate business for Air-India.

(iii) Sufficient knowledge and experience in airlines marketing.

(iv) Suitable infrastructure in the form of business premises and competent staff.

(b) The GSA has opened two offices, one in Buckingham Street, London and one in Southall area.

(c) Before the appointment of the present GSA, Air-India had six Sales offices and continues to maintain these six offices and they have not been found inadequate.

Exports to Soviet Union Suffering from non-sailing of SCI Ships

*108. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports to Russia have suffered due to non-sailing of SCI ships, while the Soviet Union is looking for other ships; and

(b) if so, what are the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Some vessels loaded with cargo for the Soviet Union suffered detention at Calcutta recently due to agitation of certain sections of seamen. Government has not received any intimation from Soviet Union that they are looking for others ships.

Encouragement to Sanskrit

*109. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to Press Reports that encouragement to Sanskrit as a nation-wide language would promote national integration, reduce language controversy and that its interaction with regional languages would encourage their development;

(b) what specific steps are planned under the New Education Policy to promote and encourage Sanskrit; and

(c) what specific targets have been fixed in this context for the current year and the next two years in the Central Sector and in respect of various States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is engaged in formulating some new proposals for the promotion, development and popularisation of Sanskrit. These proposals will be in line with the National Policy on Education which enjoins that efforts will be made for the development of facilities for the study of Sanskrit and other classical languages. Targets will be fixed in accordance with the proposals when finalised.